

I. Notes on some Coleoptera of the Genus *Plusiotis*, with Descriptions of three new Species from Mexico and Central America. By A. BOUCARD, C.M.Z.S.

[Received February 4, 1878.]

(Plate XVI.)

I have again the pleasure to exhibit to the Fellows of this Society a fine series of Beetles of the genus *Plusiotis*, which I have acquired since I wrote my former paper on these Insects in the 'Proceedings'¹.

Amongst them are four new species totally distinct from all others. Three of these have been liberally given to me by my friends MM. Sallé, Baden, and Rodriguez. The fourth I discovered during my last voyage in Costa Rica. This increases the number of species known of these fine insects to twenty, of twelve of which the types are in my collection.

During my recent journey in Costa Rica, I have also been able to procure one more specimen of *Plusiotis batesii*, which agrees completely with the type, and one specimen of *Plusiotis chrysargyrea*, Sallé, varying from the original types of the species, not being quite of the same colour.

These insects are excessively rare, and appear to confine themselves to the forests, at a very high altitude.

I was in Costa Rica in the proper season, and at the exact locality where these insects are found; but I was not able to get more than three specimens, although I offered a high price for them to the natives, and did myself all that possibly could be done; I made several excursions on purpose, but with no result.

Every one in the country knew what I meant when I asked for golden and silvery beetles; but they did not procure me any.

PLUSIOTIS BATESII.

Plusiotis batesii, Boucard, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 119, pl. xxiii.

Hab. Volcano of Irazu, Costa Rica.

One specimen of this fine species, found in May near Potrero Cerrado, at the altitude of 8000 feet, was alive, but had lost its abdomen and some of its legs. It had evidently just been caught by a bird and dropped, or had disengaged itself, after having lost its abdomen. The vitality of this insect is so great, that several hours after I had found my specimen it could still move part of its body and its remaining legs. Although I looked with the greatest care for this insect, I was not able to find any more specimens.

At the suggestion of my friend Sallé, who thought that they ought to be found abundantly on Mimosa trees, like *Pelidnota*, I searched for them during many days on these plants, but without success, and those which I secured were found in the oak-tree region. I saw another specimen, which I consider to be a very fine variety of this

¹ See P. Z. S. 1875, p. 117.

species, in a small collection of insects made by Mr. Rogers. It is of the most splendid brass-colour; it was found near Rancho redondo, on the Volcano of Irazu, by an Englishman who was in the company, Mr. Rogers.

This insect is now in the collection of Mr. Du Cane Godman.

PLUSIOTIS CHRYSARGYREA.

Pelidnota chrysargyrea, Sallé, Annales de la Soc. Ent. de France, tome iv. p. 362.

One specimen of this magnificent species, found in April in the Candelaria Mountains, at the altitude of 5000 feet, in the oak-tree region.

It is quite perfect, and was taken alive on a roble tree (*Tecoma pentaphylla*, Jacq.). Being somewhat different from the types of the species, I give a description of it:—

Oblongo-ovata; capite thoraceque aureo-pallidis, margine rubro; elytris aureis, tenuiter punctatis, punctis in striis regulariter dispositis; infra aurea, tibiis tarsisque cupreis, antennis fuscis.

Length 1 inch $1\frac{1}{2}$ line. *Mus.* Boucard.

Head, thorax, and elytra very slightly punctured, of a pale burnished gold-colour with coppery-red reflections; the anterior margin of the head and the sides of the thorax of a coppery-red colour, which distinguishes this species from *P. batesi*; tibiæ and tarsi of the same colour, with blue claws; abdomen and pygidium of a brilliant golden colour; antennæ rufous.

Its place is near *P. batesi*, to which it is closely allied.

PLUSIOTIS LÆTA, Sturm, Cat. 1843, p. 341.

According to M. Auguste Sallé, of Paris, who possesses the type of *P. læta*, Sturm, this species must be abolished, as it was described from a bad specimen of *Plusiotis psittacina*, which is from Mexico.

This proves that I was right when I suggested in my former paper that the locality of Valparaiso for this species was probably wrong; as up to this date no species of *Plusiotis* has been found south of Columbia.

PLUSIOTIS BADENI, n. sp. (Plate XVI. fig. 2.)

Oblongo-parallela, valde convexa, supra viridi-argentea, capite cupreo-violaceo, medio viridi crebre punctulato; thorace subtiliter punctulato, margine cupreo-violaceo, scutello violaceo lævi; elytris tenuiter punctatis, punctis in striis profundis regulariter dispositis; infra viridi-argentea, femoribus viridibus, tibiis cupreo-violaceis, tarsis cupreo-aureis, antennis fuscis.

Length $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Head of a coppery purple colour with the centre green, thorax silvery green, with a broad margin of the same colour as the head, both slightly punctured; the scutellum is also of that same colour; elytra silvery green, slightly darker than the head and thorax, strongly punctured, the punctuation disposed in regular striæ; the

underside is of a paler green with silvery reflections; tibiæ coppery purple, and tarsi coppery metallic; antennæ rufous.

Hab. Mexico.

The female of this species is of the same size, but a little wider; the tarsi are less coppery; and the colour of the thorax, elytra, and pygidium is slightly paler.

This species must be placed between *P. gloriosa*, and *P. lacordairei*.

I have pleasure in naming this fine insect after my friend Doctor Baden, to whom I am indebted for the specimen now in my collection.

Types, museums Baden and Boucard.

PLUSIOTIS RODRIGUEZI, n. sp. (Plate XVI. fig. 1.)

Oblongo-conveva, supra viridi-aurea; capite thoraceque subtiliter punctulatis; elytris punctatis, punctis in striis regulariter dispositis, margine lato aureo splendido; infra pallide viridis, tibiis tarsisque aureis, antennis rufis.

Length 1 inch.

Head and thorax slightly punctured, the latter twice as long as it is broad, convex, with a reddish gold margin, elytra strongly punctured; the punctuation is disposed in regular striæ, convex, broader in the middle and rounded in the base with a magnificent gold margin all round; the underside is of a pale uniform green with silvery reflections; tibiæ and tarsi golden; antennæ rufous.

Hab. Guatemala.

I have only one specimen of this charming species, the only one which was collected in the neighbourhood of Guatemala City by my intimate friend Mr. Juan Rosé Rodriguez, to whom I have the pleasure of dedicating this fine insect. It was found by him in the forests of oak trees near the capital. Its place is between *P. costata* and *P. sallei*, Bouc.

Type, mus. Boucard.

PLUSIOTIS PRASINA, n. sp. (Plate XVI. fig. 5.)

Oblongo-ovata, supra viridi-prasina; capite fortiter punctulato, thorace subtiliter punctulato; elytris fortiter punctatis, punctis in striis irregularibus; infra viridis, tibiis tarsisque violaceo micantibus.

Length 1 inch 1 line.

Head and elytra of a dark metallic green, both strongly punctured; on the latter the punctuation is disposed in irregular striæ; they are oblong, a little broader in the middle, with a prominent, thick, and compressed margin on the sides, which is very conspicuous; thorax slightly punctured, of the same colour; the underside is metallic green; tibiæ metallic purple; tarsi of the same colour, with coppery reflections; claws nearly black; antennæ dark rufous.

Hab. Mexico.

Its place is between *P. auripes* and *P. sallei*.

I have only one specimen of this insect, which was given to me by my intimate friend M. Auguste Sallé.

Types, museums Boucard and Sallé.

PLUSIOTIS BOUCARDI, Sallé. (Plate XVI. fig. 3.)

Oblongo-parallela, valde convexa; capite thoraceque viridi-aureis, subtiliter punctatis, margine cupreo; elytris splendide viridi-aureis, fortiter punctatis; infra cupreo-rufa, tibiis tarsisque nigris, antennis fuscis.

Length 1 inch 2 lines.

Head, thorax, pygidium, and elytra of a magnificent metallic golden green, with red reflections, surrounded by a narrow coppery-red margin. The elytra are rugose and strongly punctured; the underside is of a coppery red; femora, tibiæ, and tarsi quite black in the anterior legs; in the middle and posterior pairs the femora are coppery red and the tibiæ and tarsi are black; antennæ nearly black.

Hab. Costa Rica.

I have only one specimen of this magnificent species, found in the mountains of Candelaria, in the forest of robles (oak trees) at the altitude of 5000 feet.

Its place is near *P. victorina*.

Type, museum Boucard.

I have seen all the species of this genus described in this and my previous paper, and am satisfied that they are good and distinct. I have examples of all of them in my collection, except *P. psittacina* and *P. gloriosa*.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XVI.

- Fig. 1. *Plusiotis rodriguezii*, p. 295.
 2. *P. badeni*, p. 294.
 3. *P. boucardi*, p. 296.
 4. *P. mnizechii*, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 124.
 5. *P. prasina*, p. 295.

2. On a small Collection of Lepidoptera obtained by the Rev. J. S. Whitmee at the Ellice Islands. By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

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The little series of Lepidoptera obtained from the Ellice Islands by Mr. Whitmee, although it contains only five species of Butterflies and two of Moths, makes a valuable addition to our knowledge of the geographical distribution of the forms inhabiting the Australian region, since we have hitherto been quite ignorant of the insect-fauna of these islands.

Of the seven species, all of which are described, one is of special interest to me; I refer to *Euplœa distincta*, a form figured by Herrich-Schäffer, from an example taken in the Viti Islands, as a variety of *E. eleutho*. To this insect I gave a name in my "List of the Diurnal Lepidoptera of the South-Sea Islands" (P. Z. S. 1874, pp. 274-291), and was severely censured for so doing by Herr